

## Police abuse of Black troops common

*Associated Press*

NORFOLK, Va. — The police officers' guns were trained on the uniformed U.S. Army lieutenant, his arms raised and palms outstretched as he sat in his SUV under a brightly lit gas station awning.

Lt. Caron Nazario had been pulled over in rural Virginia by the two officers, who repeatedly demanded that he step out of the vehicle. Nazario, who is Black and Latino, didn't move and continually asked, "What's going on?"

"I'm serving this country, and this is how I'm treated?" he said at one point.

"Yeah well, guess what? I'm a veteran, too," police officer Joe Gutierrez responded. "And I know how to obey." Nazario said he was afraid to get out, to which Gutierrez replied: "You should be."

Within minutes, Nazario was pepper-sprayed, struck in the knees to force him to the ground and handcuffed. No charges were ever filed.

Videos of the December incident taken by the officers' body cameras and Nazario's cellphone became public earlier this month, sparking outrage and accumulating millions of views.

Nazario has sued the two officers, alleging his constitutional rights were violated during the traffic stop in the small Virginia town of Windsor. Gutierrez has also been fired.

The episode was a grim reminder to many Black Americans that even being in military uniform doesn't necessarily protect them from mistreatment by police. Further, there's a long history of violence against veterans and service members of color, whose military status was seen by some as a provocation.

Thousands of Black men who served in the Civil War, World War I and World War II were targeted because of their service and threatened, assaulted or lynched, according to a 2017 Equal Justice Initiative report.

One was Sgt. Isaac Woodard, a uniformed World War II veteran who was headed home on a bus in 1946. He was removed and beaten by a white South Carolina police chief, leaving Woodard permanently blind.

In 1962, Cpl. Roman Duckworth was killed by police while riding a bus from Maryland to his home in Mississippi. The bus driver called a white police officer to awaken Duckworth, who had fallen asleep, according to Jerry Mitchell, founder of the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting. The two struggled, and the officer shot and killed Duckworth.

"His skin color trumped his status as a military officer," Mitchell said. "It goes throughout history."

Rossano Gerald, a Black Army sergeant who sued the Oklahoma Highway Patrol af-

ter he was pulled over with his young son and subjected to a protracted search in 1998, said Nazario's traffic stop shows that nothing has changed.

In his own case, Gerald said he believes his active-duty military status only fueled the trooper's desire to show his power.

"From my perspective, he wanted to prove a point that he was in control," Gerald, a decorated veteran, said in an interview.

Gerald, who was not wearing his uniform, handed over his military ID along with his driver's license and told the trooper to call his commanding officer, per military protocol.

Instead, Gerald and his son were placed in a hot patrol car while troopers repeatedly searched his car. At one point, a trooper asked the 12-year-old if he had any weapons and conducted a pat search of the child, the lawsuit claimed.

The search turned up no evidence of drugs, and Gerald was given a warning ticket for failure to signal a lane change.

Since the videos of Nazario's traffic stop became public, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam has called for an investigation by state police. And state Attorney General Mark Herring has requested the two officers' personnel records and use-of-force records from the department, among other documents.

## Orthodox Jewish sailor allowed to keep beard for now

**By CHAD GARLAND**

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy can't force an orthodox Jewish sailor aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt to shave his beard — at least until the end of the month.

A federal judge Thursday temporarily halted orders that Petty Officer 3rd Class Edmund Di Liscia shave this week for the first time in more than two years.

In 2018, the sailor received a "no-shave chit" that has allowed him to wear his beard in uniform, in keeping with his beliefs as a member of the orthodox Hassidic sect.

Di Liscia was told Wednesday by his su-

periors that he must shave by Friday morning and then regularly thereafter, said a complaint filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., along with a request for a temporary restraining order.

In the case, first reported by Military.com, attorney Eric Baxter with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty is representing Di Liscia and three other sailors with religious or medical reasons not to shave.

The Navy typically cites safety concerns for requiring sailors be smooth-cheeked, such as the potential for a beard to interfere with a gas mask's seal.

But where a waiver has been granted, it can only be suspended in cases of immi-

nent threats and only for the duration of the threat, Baxter wrote in court filings, noting that the Navy has cited no such circumstances.

Orthodox Judaism requires men not to cut the side and edges of their hair as "an expression of obedience and fidelity to God," his court filing stated.

At a hearing Thursday, an attorney representing the Defense Department said the Navy had instructed the command not to force Di Liscia to shave for now. But because the ship is operating in the South China Sea, the service had not received confirmation that those instructions had been received.

# Navy veteran hopes for repeat of Paralympic win

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Paralympic archery champion who used to drive assault boats for the Navy will vie for another gold medal at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Andre Shelby, 54, of Jeffersonville, Ind., will compete against 15-20 other archers in a qualification tournament next month that will see three selected to travel to Japan with the U.S. Paralympic team.

The Tokyo Paralympics are scheduled Aug. 24 through Sept. 5.

Shelby's path to the games began when he was medically retired from the Navy in 2004 following a motorcycle accident that severed his spinal cord and left him a paraplegic, he said in a telephone interview Friday.

The injury ended an 18-year military career that saw him serve as a boatswain's mate on numerous warships, including in the Persian Gulf. On his last vessel, the dock landing ship USS Tortuga, he was responsible for heavy equipment such as assault boats.

The 225-pound, 6-foot-tall former high school football player attended events, some organized by the Navy, where he participated in sports adapted for disabled people such as tennis, table tennis, basketball, waterskiing and archery.

Shelby shoots arrows during three-hour training sessions, four days a week in preparation for the games. He's not a bowhunter and confines his archery to the range, he said.

The sport gives competitors something to strive for, Shelby said.

"In archery, you have to rely on yourself and trust your confidence," he said. "You are always looking to improve your shot and get better."

Shelby's skills have taken him a long way in the sport. He is the Parapan American champion and won a gold medal at the Rio Paralympics, where he joined 4,327 other athletes representing 159 countries. In the championship match, he scored a 10 with his final shot to win the gold medal by one point.

"I think I have a really good chance to make the team again," he said.

# 173rd Airborne tests newest Army vehicle

By NORMAN LLAMAS  
*Stars and Stripes*

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The 173rd Airborne Brigade trained its drivers over the past week on one of the Army's latest infantry vehicles, ahead of participation in the large-scale Defender-Europe 21 and African Lion exercises later this year.

The Vicenza-based unit has been using the Army Ground Mobility Vehicle — described as a "21st century Jeep" — since 2018. But members of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment are now training a new batch of AGMV operators at an Italian army base in Pordenone, located just a few miles from Aviano Air Base.

Army officials consider the all-terrain AGMV a much-needed addition to global quick response forces like the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 82nd Airborne Division. The General Dynamics vehicle can be slung beneath a UH-60 Black Hawk or carried inside a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, and delivered to a landing zone along with the unit's troops.

Weighing 6,000 pounds, it can carry a nine-member infantry squad and all their gear from the landing zone to their destination. This allows the troops to be dropped further away from potential enemy fire and then use the AGMVs to find an off-road avenue of approach that an adversary isn't expecting. The troops themselves also wouldn't be fatigued once they reach their destination.

"This vehicle's very versatile, said Sgt. Devin L. Cook, a section leader. "It can manage going up to 45 degrees sideways and up to 60 degrees uphill, without rolling over."

The vehicle has its share of fans and like many new systems, its critics, who have said the occupants inside the unarmed, unarmored vehicle would be vulnerable to small-arms fire.

First Lt. Bandon C. Vance, a platoon leader, said there are plans to mount weapons such as machine guns on the vehicles.

"The way our AGMVs are configured at the moment, it's not possible to mount a turret ... unless a kit was installed to allow for that to happen," he said.

# US to build military bases in Norway

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. and Norway signed a revised defense cooperation agreement Friday that will allow the Americans to build facilities at three airfields and one naval base in the country.

The agreement comes amid continuing concerns of Russian military activities along NATO's borders, including in the Arctic region.

Facilities will be built at Rygge Military Air Station south of Oslo, Sola Military Air Station on the southwestern coast, and Evenes Military Air Station and Ramsund Naval Station in the far north.

The updated agreement "confirms Norway's key position on the northern flank of NATO," Foreign Affairs Minister Ine Erik-

sen Soreide said. "To ensure that Norway and our Allies can operate together in a crisis situation under difficult conditions, we must be able to hold exercises and train regularly here in Norway."

The agreement gives the U.S. unimpeded access to specified facilities and areas, Norway's government said. It does not change Norwegian policies that bar foreign forces from being stationed in the country.

The facilities will be used by U.S., Norwegian and allied forces.

The agreement reflects the U.S. "commitment to reaffirming and reinvigorating America's alliances to meet common security challenges and protect shared interests and values," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

# More vaccines going to US military in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The Defense Department is speeding up coronavirus vaccine deliveries to overseas bases, the top commander in Europe said last week as he faced questions about a slow rollout that lawmakers blamed on poor military planning.

U.S. European Command's Gen. Tod Wolters said he and his counterpart in the Pacific, Adm. Phil Davidson, have been pressing the Defense Department to "accelerate the flow" of deliveries.

"Up to this point we've probably been a little bit off balance," Wolters said during testimony Thursday before the House Armed Services Committee.

The Pentagon has come under criticism for how it has distributed the vaccine, with overseas personnel voicing frustration over long wait times compared to the faster pace at U.S. installations.

"The word we are getting is there has been insufficient planning for the storage and transportation of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines ... I certainly hope this is addressed because it impacts people's real lives," Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, told Wolters.

Turner also said the Pentagon should have had a better plan given the many months between the start of the pandemic and the development of vaccines.

"We knew this was coming," Turner said.

So far, 46% of Europe-based

active-duty troops in DOD's Tier 1 group have been vaccinated, Wolters said.

Tier 1 includes troops likely to deploy, critical workers, first responders and those with health conditions. Other service members, civilians and family members are still waiting for their first shots.

At military vaccination sites in the United States, at least 40% of locations have opened up shots to all eligible beneficiaries who want them. Unlike in Europe, shots are also available at U.S. pharmacies and off-base vaccination centers.

Wolters said the situation should improve soon. The military in Europe will be able to administer 18,000 shots per week by mid-May, up from 3,500 per week, Wolters said.

It planned to have an additional "surge capacity" of 23,000 shots per week, but the decision to suspend use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine could reduce that figure by 20%, Wolters said.

Military medical clinics are trying to implement a Defense Department plan to offer vaccines to all eligible beneficiaries beginning Monday, with at least an initial dose being administered by mid-May.

There are 244,000 people eligible for the vaccine in Europe, according to EUCOM. That includes uniformed personnel, civilian workers, family members and military retirees.

EUCOM anticipates that by July, all of those willing to be vaccinated will have received shots.

## Variant fears lead France to restrict some travelers

*Associated Press*

PARIS — France is imposing entry restrictions on travelers from four countries — Argentina, Chile, South Africa and Brazil — in hopes of keeping out especially contagious coronavirus variants, the government has announced.

The restrictions include mandatory 10-day quarantines with police checks to ensure people arriving in France observe the requirement. Travelers from all four countries will be restricted to French nationals and their families, EU citizens and others with a permanent home in France.

France previously suspended all flights from Brazil. The suspension will be lifted next Saturday, after 10 days, and the new restrictions "progressively" put in place by then, the government said. The flight suspension for Brazil will be lifted followed by "drastic measures" for entering France from all four countries, plus the French territory of Guiana, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

The four countries "are the most dangerous in terms of the number of variants that exist and in the evolution of the pan-

demic in these countries," Le Drian said Saturday on the France 3 television station.

The list of countries subject to tougher border checks could be extended, he said.

Under the new restrictions, travelers must provide an address for where they plan to observe the 10-day confinement period and police will make visits and fine those who are found in violation, the government said.

Along with the mandatory quarantine, France is requiring more stringent testing for the coronavirus. Travelers must show proof of a negative PCR test taken less than 36 hours instead of 72 hours before they boarded a flight, or a negative antigen test less than 24 hours prior.

France has reported the deaths of 100,000 people in the COVID-19 pandemic.

A variant first identified in England spread to continental Europe and is now responsible for about 80% of the virus cases in France, while the variants first seen in Brazil and South Africa make up less than 4% of French infections, Health Minister Olivier Veran said last week.

## Fauci expects J&J vaccine doses to resume this week

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The United States will likely move to resume Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine this coming week, possibly with restrictions or broader warnings after reports of some very rare blood clot cases, the government's top infectious diseases expert said Sunday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, in a series of news show interviews, said he expects a decision when advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention meet Friday to discuss the pause in J&J's single-dose vaccine.

"I would be very surprised if we don't have a resumption in some form by Friday," he said. "I don't really anticipate that they're going to want it stretch it out a bit longer."

Fauci, who is President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, said he believed that federal regulators could bring the shots back with restrictions based on age or gender or with a blanket warning, so that it is administered in a way "a little bit different than we were before the pause."

# Microsoft in hot seat after Russia hack

Associated Press

BOSTON — The sprawling hacking campaign deemed a grave threat to U.S. national security came to be known as SolarWinds, for the company whose software update was seeded by Russian intelligence agents with malware to penetrate sensitive government and private networks.

Yet it was Microsoft whose code the cyber spies persistently abused in the campaign's second stage, rifling through emails and other files of such high-value targets as then-acting Homeland Security chief Chad Wolf — and hopping undetected among victim networks.

This has put the world's third-most valuable company in the hot seat. Because its products are a de facto monoculture in government and industry — with more than

85% market share — federal lawmakers are insisting that Microsoft swiftly upgrade security to what they say it should have provided in the first place, and without fleecing taxpayers.

Seeking to assuage concerns, Microsoft last this past week offered all federal agencies a year of "advanced" security features at no extra charge. But it also seeks to deflect blame, saying it is customers who do not always make security a priority.

The SolarWinds hackers took full advantage of what George Kurtz, CEO of top cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, called "systematic weaknesses" in key elements of Microsoft code to mine at least nine U.S. government agencies — the departments of Justice and Treasury, among them — and more than 100 private companies and think

tanks, including software and telecommunications providers.

The campaign's "hallmark" was the intruders' ability to impersonate legitimate users and create counterfeit credentials that let them grab data stored remotely by Microsoft Office, the acting director of the Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency, Brandon Wales, told a mid-March congressional hearing. "It was all because they compromised those systems that manage trust and identity on networks," he said.

"The crux of it is that Microsoft is selling you the disease and the cure," said Marc Maiffret, a cybersecurity veteran who built a career finding vulnerabilities in Microsoft products and has a new startup in the works called BinMave.

## Sikh community urges gun reform after Ind. killings

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Members of Indianapolis' tight-knit Sikh community joined with city officials to call for gun reforms Saturday as they mourned the deaths of four Sikhs who were among the eight people killed in a mass shooting at a FedEx warehouse.

At a vigil attended by more than 200 at an Indianapolis park Saturday evening, Aasees Kaur, who represented the Sikh Coal-

ition, spoke out alongside the city's mayor and other elected officials to demand action that would prevent such attacks from happening again.

"We must support one another, not just in grief, but in calling our policymakers and elected officials to make meaningful change," Kaur said. "The time to act is not later, but now. We are far too many tragedies, too late, in doing so."

Kiran Deol, who attended the

vigil in support of family members affected by the shooting, said loopholes in the law that make it easier for individuals to buy guns "need to be closed now," and emphasized that anyone who tries to buy a firearm should be required to have their background checked.

One of the victims of Thursday night's shooting was Amarjit Sekhon, a 48-year-old Sikh mother of two sons who was the breadwinner of her family.

Kuldip Sekhon said his sister-in-law began working at the FedEx facility in November and was a dedicated worker whose husband was disabled.

In addition to Sekhon, the Marion County Coroner's office identified the dead as: Matthew R. Alexander, 32; Samaria Blackwell, 19; Amarjeet Johal, 66; Jasvinder Kaur, 50; Jasvinder Singh, 68; Karli Smith, 19; and John Weisert, 74.

## Armed patrol group tries to keep the peace in Minn.

Associated Press

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. — As protests intensified in the Minneapolis suburb where a police officer fatally shot Daunte Wright, a group of Black men joined the crowd intent on keeping the peace and preventing protests from escalating into violence.

Hundreds of people have gathered outside the heavily guarded Brooklyn Center police station every night since Sunday, when former Officer Kim Potter, who is white, shot the 20-year-old Black motorist during a traffic stop. Despite the mayor's calls for law enforcement and protesters to scale back their tactics, the nights have often ended in objects hurled, tear gas and ar-

rests.

The Black men at the edge of the crowd wear yellow patches on protective vests that identify them as members of the Minnesota Freedom Fighters, a group formed to provide security in Minneapolis' north side neighborhoods during unrest following the death of George Floyd last year. They are not shy about casting a forceful image — the group's Facebook page features members posing with assault-style weapons and describes itself as an "elite security unit" — but on Friday the Freedom Fighters didn't appear to be armed and said they intended only to encourage peaceful protesting.

On recent nights, the Freedom Fighters have moved through the crowd in forma-

tion, wearing body armor and dark clothing, weaving past umbrella-wielding demonstrators to create separation along a double-layer perimeter security fence. Their passive tactics are intended to deescalate the tension, preventing agitators from pressing forward and provoking the law enforcement officers.

Minneapolis is on edge — simultaneously watching the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin in Floyd's death and reeling from the shooting of Wright. In the midst of that, Hartwell said the Freedom Fighters are trying to push the movement for racial justice forward, while keeping at bay the violence and destruction that often acutely affects minority communities.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Fish falls from sky onto trucker's windshield

**NC** HIGH POINT — A truck was rolling down a highway in North Carolina when its windshield was struck by a fish.

The Charlotte Observer reported that the unlucky fish had been caught by a hungry bird and then dropped from the sky.

Video above the truck's windshield shows the moment the bird flies by and drops the fish.

The truck can be seen pulling to the side of the highway with a layer of slush on its windshield.

### Pot growing equipment may have caused blast

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Equipment from a marijuana grow in a Los Angeles home's garage may have caused an explosion that shattered the structures, trapping one man in the debris and sending another to the hospital with critical burn injuries, authorities said.

More than a dozen nearby homes were evacuated after the explosion in the San Fernando Valley neighborhood and several sustained damage from debris, the Los Angeles Fire Department said.

Authorities said that an inspection of the home and garage wreckage found evidence of a marijuana grow.

### Festival planned to celebrate KFC founder

**KY** CORBIN — The southern Kentucky town of Corbin is planning a festival that will celebrate a famous face and former resident:

Colonel Harland Sanders, who developed the secret recipe for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The city's first Colonel Fest is scheduled for April 24 and will feature dozens of vendors and other activities that focus on Sanders and his creation, the Times-Tribune reported.

One event, the Finger Lickin' Chicken .5K, will have participants run 820 feet, eat a piece of Kentucky Fried Chicken and then run an additional 820 feet.

### Airport sees more travel, guns in carry-on bags

**OR** PORTLAND — Travel is increasing in Oregon and so are the instances of Transportation Security Administration agents finding guns in carry-on luggage, officials said.

At the Portland International Airport, travel increased in March, especially during spring break, KOIN reported.

From March 18 through April 4, the airport had more than 545,000 travelers, which was 22% higher than expected.

Five loaded guns were found in carry-on luggage in March at PDX and one so far in April, TSA said.

### Woman arrested after postal service carjacking

**MI** DETROIT — A 40-year-old woman was arrested in connection with the carjacking of a U.S. Postal Service van in Detroit.

Sadie Lakisha Hawkins was charged with carjacking, unarmed robbery, receiving and concealing stolen property and unlawful driving away of an automobile, according to the

Wayne County prosecutor's office.

A postal worker was pulled from the van on the city's west side and the vehicle was taken. Detroit police arrested Hawkins.

### Cop burned when hit by Molotov cocktail

**MO** STE. GENEVIEVE — A Ste. Genevieve police officer was recovering from serious burns he suffered when his uniform caught fire after a man threw a Molotov cocktail at him, police said.

The officer was responding to a disturbance call when he encountered the man outside his parents' home holding a bottle filled with flammable liquid, police said.

The man lit the bottle and refused the officer's orders to drop it.

When the Molotov cocktail was thrown at the officer, it broke on his arm, burning his arms, legs and torso.

### Cops called on Black teen practicing ROTC drill

**NC** RALEIGH — A Black North Carolina teenager who was practicing an ROTC routine with a replica rifle was shocked when neighbors called the police on him.

WRAL reported that Jathan Walthour had recently joined the team at Sanderson High School in Raleigh.

In one 911 call, a resident reports that a man was outside with a gun and "walking up and down our cul-de-sac."

Police have suggested that the teen practice his ROTC

drills in his backyard. His family is thinking of making fliers to let neighbors know Jathan is in ROTC and not a threat.

### Historic train depot to be restaurant, music venue

**MS** NATCHEZ — The city of Natchez is giving new life to a historic train depot.

The Natchez Mayor and Board of Aldermen voted to approve a lease for a train depot on Broadway Street to be renovated into a restaurant and entertainment space, The Natchez Democrat reported.

Church Hill Music LLC has agreed to invest more than \$1 million worth of improvements at the facility, City Attorney Bryan Callaway told The Democrat.

### Bridge run returns after last year's cancellation

**FL** MARATHON — The Seven Mile Bridge Run in the Florida Keys is back after being canceled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The race is set with protocols in place to mitigate potential COVID-19 transmission, officials said. Monroe County deputies will halt traffic for three hours along the the Seven Mile Bridge, the longest span of 42 bridges that run over water in the Keys.

Registration was only opened to the 1,500 runners who had signed up for the canceled 2020 competition, race director Ginger Sayer said. About 1,000 entrants have registered.

— From The AssociatedPress

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# NFL teams not hesitant to draft, move on from QBs

Associated Press

One after another, quarterbacks once believed to be franchise cornerstones after being top five draft picks changed addresses this offseason in staggering succession.

Matthew Stafford and Jared Goff were part of a swap of former No. 1 overall picks. Carson Wentz and Sam Darnold were traded away by teams that had recently tried to build around those passers. Mitchell Trubisky had to settle for a backup contract deal after flaming out in Chicago.

Those were part of a growing pattern around the league as teams have never been more willing to use high draft picks on quarterbacks, and never been quicker to cut ties when those investments don't pay off.

The cycle will continue later this month when quarterbacks are expected to be drafted with the top three picks, and a chance that a record five could go in the top 10 as the lure of a top passer on an affordable rookie deal is too enticing to pass up.

The Jets will get back on the rookie quarterback roller coaster three years after trading up to take Darnold with the third pick. With New York holding the second selection in a quarterback-heavy draft, general manager Joe Douglas dealt Darnold to Carolina and now has his eyes on another potential franchise QB, likely BYU's Zach Wilson.

"We felt like this was the best decision for the entire organization moving forward," Douglas said, "and hitting the reset button."

The resets are coming quicker than ever, with the Jets' decision to trade Darnold after his third season the quickest a team has moved on from a top 5 quarterback since the Raiders cut 2007 No. 1 overall pick JaMarcus Russell after his third season in the NFL. But moves like it are happening more frequently, with the Cardinals trading away 2018 first-rounder (No. 10) Josh Rosen after one season in order to take Kyler Murray first overall in 2019.

In all, four of the five quarterbacks taken with top five picks from 2016-18 changed teams this offseason. Darnold was one of three to get traded, joining the top two picks in the 2016 draft: No. 1 selection Goff dealt from the Rams to Detroit for 2009 top pick Stafford, and No. 2 choice Wentz from Philadelphia to Indianapolis. Trubisky, the third overall pick by Chicago in 2017, was signed as a free agent to be a backup in Buffalo to Josh Allen. Only 2018 No. 1 pick Baker May-

field remains with his original team as he enters his fourth season with Cleveland.

"It's really unprecedented, what's happening with possible franchise guys that are moving," Rams coach Sean McVay said.

Later this month, several more teams will hope they found their franchise guy, with Jacksonville, the Jets and San Francisco all expected to take quarterbacks with the first three picks on Aug. 29, something that has happened only twice (1971, 1999) in the common draft era. Clemson's Trevor Lawrence is expected to go first to the Jaguars, then Wilson as the replacement for Darnold at No. 2.

If that happens, the Niners would have their choice of Ohio State's Justin Fields, Alabama's Mac Jones and North Dakota State's Trey Lance, with the other two potentially going later in the top 10 to teams like Atlanta, Detroit or Denver. And don't forget another quarterback-needy team willing to trade up such as New England, Washington or Chicago.

San Francisco made the big move because of the desire to find one of the handful of quarterbacks that can turn a good team into a Super Bowl contender on an annual basis.

"It's a risk every single year you go into an NFL season without one of those top five guys," said coach Kyle Shanahan, who traded the No. 12 pick and two future first-round choices to move up to No. 3. "It's very tough to win in this league and there's only a few quarterbacks that you're going to win because of just the quarterback. Very few, and even those guys still need a good team around them. You've got to take risks. This is a risk we were willing to take."

Shanahan lost a Super Bowl following the 2019 season to one of those quarterbacks, as Patrick Mahomes led a fourth-quarter comeback to deliver the Chiefs the title. Mahomes is by far the most successful of the 22 quarterbacks taken in the top 10 of the past 10 drafts, a rate that is double what it had been in the common draft era.

The change came following the 2011 CBA that implemented a rookie wage scale, which increased the value of quarterbacks on rookie contracts. This will be the seventh straight season with multiple QBs going in the top 10, more than doubling the previous longest streak in the common draft era of three years.

# Elite European clubs plan rival 'Super League'

Associated Press

LONDON — A group of elite clubs split European soccer Sunday with plans to walk away from the Champions League to create a breakaway competition, drawing an angry response and the threat of legal action from UEFA.

The move to walk away from the existing structures in an apparent grab for more money and power includes Real Madrid, Barcelona, the American owners of Liverpool and Manchester United, Juventus and AC Milan. No German or French clubs have signed up.

The Super League plans, which were first leaked in January, have escalated into a greater threat to implement them on the eve of UEFA's planned announcement of a new format for the Champions League. While the long-standing existing competition that grew from the European Cup would increase to 36 teams and add more games as desired by the wealthiest clubs, they remained frustrated that UEFA would not grant more control of the sale of television and commercial rights.

Still, the European Club Association's board, which is led by Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli, and the UEFA clubs' competitions committee on Friday had signed up to expanding the Champions League from 2024 ahead of ratification by the UEFA executive committee on Monday.

Now UEFA has announced it has "learned that a few English, Spanish and Italian clubs may be planning to announce their creation of a closed, so-called Super League." The plan was called a "cynical project, a project that is founded on the self-interest of a few clubs" in a statement from UEFA jointly with the leagues and national governing bodies from England, Spain and Italy.

The creation of a 20-team annual competition would include 15 top clubs as permanent members based on plans seen in January by the AP. The five other teams would vary each season, although the qualification method has not been determined.

The competition would begin with two groups of 10 teams, with the top four from each group advancing to the quarterfinals.

The games — apart from the final — would be played in midweek like the current Champions League, allowing them to still play in domestic competitions.

# Rays blast cellar-dwelling Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sluggish to start their AL title defense, the Tampa Bay Rays have found their bearings in the Bronx.

“This venue can motivate you really quick,” manager Kevin Cash said.

Manuel Margot hit a tiebreaking two-run homer, Tyler Glasnow overcame cramps and poor control to pitch five innings of one-run ball and the Rays held off the struggling New York Yankees 6-3 Saturday.

Tampa Bay won its second straight in this series after enduring a 3-8 stretch, improving to 7-8 overall. The reigning AL champions are 4-1 against New York this season and 7-1 at Yankee Stadium since the start of 2020. They have won seven straight series against New York, including last year’s Division Series, and taken 17 of 22 games since September 2019.

The Yankees dropped to an AL-worst 5-9, the latest into a season New York has been at the bottom of the league since a 9-17 start in 1991, per Elias Sports. Fans in the Bronx again booed the Bombers as they lost their fourth straight, but the crowd was more restrained a day after some hurled baseballs and other items on the field late in an 8-2 loss to the Rays.

“I felt like we were much more in the fight today, which is at least a good thing,” New York manager Aaron Boone said. “But we don’t want moral victories right now.”

**Dodgers 2, Padres 0:** Mookie Betts made an outstanding diving catch and Clayton Kershaw starred on the mound and at the plate for visiting Los Angeles.

Kershaw (3-1) struck out eight while working six innings of three-hit ball. He also drew a bases-loaded walk against Yu Darvish (1-1) in the fifth, leading the Dodgers to their eighth straight win. Justin Turner hit a solo homer in the ninth.

With runners on second and third, Tommy Pham hit a sinking liner to center that looked as if it was going to tie the game. But Betts got over for a terrific diving grab, and then pounded on his chest in celebration.

Darvish was terrific for San Diego, allowing one hit in seven innings. He struck out nine and walked two.

**Mets 4, Rockies 3, 1st; Rockies 7, Mets 2, 2nd:** New York pitcher Jacob deGrom struck out nine straight batters against host Colorado, falling one shy of matching Tom Seaver’s major league record, and finished with 14 strikeouts to win the doubleheader opener.

German Márquez pitched a two-hitter for his second career complete as Colorado won

the nightcap, stopping a seven-game losing streak and the Mets’ four-game winning streak. Josh Fuentes broke open the game with a three-run homer in the fifth off Jacob Barnes.

Coming off a 14-strikeout performance in a 3-0 loss to Philadelphia, deGrom (1-0) became just the ninth pitcher to strike out as many as nine in a row. New York rallied to win a series opener delayed a day by snow when pinch-hitter Jonathan Villar hit a tying double off Daniel Bard (0-1) in the seventh inning and Dominic Smith had a sacrifice fly.

**Cubs 13, Braves 4:** Kris Bryant and Willson Contreras each homered twice, and host Chicago won on an afternoon when Atlanta returned Sean Kazmar Jr. to the major leagues for the first time in 13 years.

Javier Báez and David Bote also homered for the Cubs, who stopped a three-game losing streak.

Kazmar, a 36-year-old infielder, pinch hit in the fifth inning, grounding into a 4-6-3 double play. Kazmar had not played in the major leagues since Sept. 23, 2008, with the San Diego Padres.

The gap between big league appearances was the longest since that of right-hander Ralph Winegarner, according to Elias Sports Bureau. Winegarner played on June 23, 1936, for the Cleveland Indians and did not return to the majors until July 7, 1949, with the St. Louis Browns — a span of 13 years and 14 days.

**Astros 1, Mariners 0:** Zack Greinke pitched eight sharp innings, rookie Taylor Jones drove in the only run and depleted Houston ended a six-game losing streak and snapped host Seattle’s three-game winning streak.

Greinke (2-1) allowed four hits and walked none. He finished the game with 2,705 career strikeouts. His teammate, Justin Verlander (18th at 3,013), and the Washington Nationals’ Max Scherzer (22nd at 2,808) are the only active players ahead of him on the career list.

**Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 2:** Yan Gomes homered off Luke Weaver (1-1), drove in two runs and became the first major league catcher to throw out Tim Lincecum on a steal attempt after 29 consecutive swipes to start his career, and host Washington strung together consecutive wins for the first time this season.

Erick Fedde (1-1) tied his career high with nine strikeouts in five innings for the Nationals.

**Blue Jays 5, Royals 1, 1st; Royals 3, Blue Jays 2, 2nd:** Steven Matz (3-0) held host

Kansas City without a hit into the sixth inning, and Jonathan Davis and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered for visiting Toronto in the opener.

Matz allowed only a pair of walks before Nicky Lopez’s blooper to left with one out in the sixth.

In the nightcap, the Royals followed spot-starter Ervin Santana with four relief pitchers before Salvador Perez’s two-out, walk-off homer.

**Cardinals 9, Phillies 4:** Yadier Molina hit two home runs, doubled and drove in four runs, and Nolan Arenado and Paul DeJong also homered for visiting St. Louis.

The Cardinals won for just the second time in their past seven games, breaking the game open with six runs in the third off Matt Moore (0-1).

**Red Sox 7, White Sox 4:** Wearing their new blue-and-yellow uniforms, host Boston beat Chicago when Marwin Gonzalez homered to key a four-run rally in the eighth inning.

The uniforms — lacking any red — honor the Boston Marathon with the colors that stretch across the finish line of the famous race. The Red Sox were the first of seven big league teams that will don a new City Series look this season.

**Athletics 7, Tigers 0:** Matt Olson, Aramis García and Mark Canha each homered and host Oakland shut out Detroit for a second straight game and won its seventh win in a row. Cole Irvin (1-2) struck out six, didn’t walk a batter and allowed four hits in six innings to earn his first victory since joining the A’s.

**Reds 3, Indians 2 (10):** Josh Naylor lined into a triple play in the eighth inning, then let a routine grounder roll through his legs at first base with two outs in the ninth that led to host Cincinnati’s tying run before pinch-hitter Tyler Stephenson’s single off Oliver Perez (0-1) in the 10th won it.

**Marlins 7, Giants 6 (10):** Jorge Alfaro hit a game-ending, two-run double, and host Miami rallied from two-run deficits in the ninth and 10th innings.

San Francisco led 5-3 before RBI singles in the ninth by Alfaro and Starling Marte.

**Orioles 6, Rangers 1:** Trey Mancini had a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning for visiting Baltimore.

**Brewers 7, Pirates 1:** Brett Anderson pitched seven effective innings and host Milwaukee built a big lead early and breezed past Pittsburgh.

# Montour, Panthers down Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Brandon Montour, Patric Hornqvist and Jonathan Huberdeau scored in the first period, and the Florida Panthers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 5-3 Saturday night.

Frank Vatrano and Anthony Duclair also scored, and Sam Bennett had two assists to help Florida jump one point ahead of Tampa Bay for second place in the Central Division. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 28 shots.

"I feel like it's a fun game, it's a lot of emotions and two good teams battling for points," Florida defenseman Markus Nutivaara said. "I love to play in these games."

Brayden Point, Erik Cernak and Mathieu Joseph scored for the Lightning. Victor Hedman had two assists to top 400 for his career. Andrei Vasilevskiy had 27 saves in his first loss on home ice this season in 15 starts.

Hurricanes 3, Predators 1: Jani Hakanpaa scored his first goal with Carolina, breaking a tie in the third period and leading host Carolina to the victory.

Hakanpaa, a defenseman acquired Monday at the trade deadline from the Anaheim Ducks, was in his second game with the Hurricanes. He blasted in a shot with 11:05 left for just his second goal in 49 career games in the NHL.

Jacob Slavin scored in the first period and Andrei Svechnikov had an empty-net goal for the Carolina, which completed a season-high homestand at 5-2-1. Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 27 shots.

Roman Josi scored for Nashville, which has lost back-to-back games for the first time in more than a month. Juuse Saros had 45 saves.

**Wild 5, Sharks 2:** Mats Zuccarello had a goal and an assist, and Minnesota stayed hot at home.

Joel Eriksson Ek, Zach Parise, Kirill Kaprizov and Nico Sturm also scored on a night when 12 different Wild players had at least one point. Kaapo Kahkonen made 26 saves as Minnesota won its third straight and improved to 17-4-0 at home this season.

**Blackhawks 4, Red Wings 0:** Malcolm Subban made 29 saves for his second shutout of the season, leading Chicago to the road win.

Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist for the Blackhawks, who were coming off a 4-1 loss to last-place Detroit on Thursday night. Alex DeBrincat, Wyatt Kalynuk and Pius Suter also scored, and Vinnie Hinostroza had three assists.

**Rangers 6, Devils 3:** Pavel Buchnevich scored three times on his 26th birthday, and New York beat visiting New Jersey for their

third win over their Hudson River rivals in five days.

It was Buchnevich's first career hat trick. Artemi Panarin added a goal and three assists as the Rangers improved to 12-4-3 in their last 19 games.

**Capitals 6, Flyers 3:** Alex Ovechkin scored twice to move within one goal of Marcel Dionne for fifth place on the NHL's career goals list as Washington earned the road win.

Dmitry Orlov, Evgeny Kuznetsov, Conor Sheary and Anthony Mantha each added goals for the Capitals.

**Penguins 3, Sabres 2:** Tristan Jarry stopped 27 shots as visiting Pittsburgh eliminated Buffalo from playoff contention.

**Oilers 3, Jets 0:** Mike Smith stopped 26 shots in his third shutout of the season, sending Edmonton to the road victory.

**Coyotes 3, Blues 2:** Darcy Kuemper stopped 20 shots in his return to the lineup, and host Arizona rallied for the win.

**Stars 5, Blue Jackets 1:** Joe Pavelski had a goal and an assist, and host Dallas scored four times in 6½ minutes in the second period.

**Senators 4, Canadiens 0:** Drake Batherson had two goals and an assist for last-place Ottawa, which had dropped five of six before the win at Montreal.

# Celtics slip past Warriors despite Curry's 47 points

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum got into a shootout with Stephen Curry, and the Celtics came out on top.

Tatum scored 44 points — the second-highest total in his career — and Kemba Walker made a three-pointer with 24 seconds left to help Boston beat the Golden State Warriors 119-114 on Saturday night.

"He's incredible," Walker said. "He can score with the best of them. He's making the right plays out there. He was unbelievable. We needed every bucket he had tonight."

Curry scored 47, including a three-pointer to cut Golden State's deficit to two points with 19 seconds left. But he missed a shot from just inside half court on the Warriors' next possession, dooming their last chance for a win.

The Celtics earned their sixth straight victory and their eighth in their last nine.

"It took everything," said Walker, who scored 26 points and grabbed his eighth re-

bound after Golden State's last shot and bounced the ball vigorously in celebration as the clock ran out. "It was a hard-fought game. We knew it was going to be tough. These guys are playing so well. Obviously they've got one of the best players in the world. He's incredible."

**Lakers 127, Jazz 115 (OT):** Dennis Schröder hit the tying basket to force overtime and finished with 25 points, and Los Angeles beat Utah in a game between short-handed teams.

Schröder got by Royce O'Neale for a lay-up with 3 seconds remaining to tie it at 110 and force overtime. The Lakers got outscored 28-16 in the fourth.

**Wizards 121, Pistons 100:** Russell Westbrook had his 25th triple-double of the season, Bradley Beal scored 37 points and host Washington beat Detroit.

Westbrook finished with 15 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists in the fourth straight win for the Wizards (23-33), who continued

their late-season push.

**Grizzlies 125, Bucks 115:** Grayson Allen shot 7-for-10 from three-point range and scored 26 points to lead six Memphis players in double figures in a win at Milwaukee.

The Grizzlies have begun their longest road trip in two decades by winning on back-to-back nights. They started their seven-game road swing Friday with a 126-115 victory at Chicago.

**Spurs 111, Suns 85:** Rudy Gay scored 19 points, Drew Eubanks added 13 points and 13 rebounds in his first start of the season and short-handed San Antonio had a surprisingly dominant win at Phoenix.

The Spurs were playing without a handful of their main rotation players, including leading scorer DeMar DeRozan, but still controlled almost the entire game.

**Bulls 106, Cavaliers 96:** Nikola Vucevic scored 25 points, Lauri Markkanen added 16 off the bench and host Chicago beat Cleveland to snap a five-game losing streak.